

# MOUSE 101

The house mouse came originally from southwestern Asia from whence it has spread all over the earth, mainly with the help of man. It has the amazing ability to adapt and it now occurs more or less where man has settled. In most cases the mouse is associated with buildings, often moving outside in the summer, but always retreating indoors come the autumn. In buildings, mice will live anywhere and they are very difficult to keep out. If you can push a broom under a door, then a mouse can get in....!! Mice are also totally omnivorous, in other words they will eat anything, even down to the soap in the bathroom or even candles...but their favorite foods are cereals and cereal products. For their size, they don't eat much but the damage that they can do, both with gnawing and soiling products with their urine and droppings, is tremendous.

## **Contributing factors of infestation:**

Extremes in weather conditions; ongoing and active construction sites; holes and cracks in building exteriors and around pipes; inconsistent trash removal; in-room food storage; build-up of miscellaneous belongings such as old clothing, shoes, bulk packs, etc., and densely populated areas with exposed trash.

## **Interesting facts about mice:**

They eat about 3 grams a day.

They don't need to drink much.

They produce about 80 droppings per day.

Female mice are pregnant for 3 weeks.

A litter can produce between 4-16 individuals.

A mouse can have 7 to 8 litters per year – even more.

Sexual maturity of the young is about 8 to 12 weeks.